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10 September 1948

MEMO: [redacted]  
Date: 19 March 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director, CIA

FROM: Chief, Communications Division, OSO

SUBJECT: Position of Communications Division in CIA

Under the present organization, the Communications Division is under the Chief of Administration and Services, OSO. It provides services to FBIB, Services Branch A&M, Contacts Branch, and to OPC and to such other elements in CIA as directed by ADSO.

In addition to performing these duties, the Communications Division is an integral part of OSO and approximately 90% of its activities have to do with Special Operations. Its present position in South Building is already dangerously separated and removed from operations. Further separation would seriously jeopardize the operations of both the Communications Division and the operating branches.

The functions of the Communications Division make it an integral operational part of the Special Operations of OSO and consist of devising ciphers, cryptographic procedures, signal plans, equipment design, and providing equipment, cipher training and communications training. All of these functions are done both for the daily routine operations and for the clandestine operations requiring intimate knowledge by the personnel of the Communications Division of all planning and details of operations, including actual acquaintanceship with the personnel involved.

Communications personnel are involved in actual OSO operations of all degrees of security while still remaining assigned to and responsible to the Chief of the Communications Division.

The Communications Division is the most dangerous security point in all CIA, especially with respect to OSO operations since details of all operations must be centralized in the Communications Division and where

must be available and if not made available, can readily or eventually be determined.

To provide efficient communications to the operating branches, Communications must be included in the planning of operations, the procedures to be used, and the discussions of proposed plans. These are at present and must be a continuing day to day practice and go far beyond the limits of liaison. Communications has data on the normal and clandestine operations in all areas which is concentrated in no other place to such an extent. The fact that the Communications Division

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25X1 must have this information makes it imperative that Communications be  
25X1 under the control of that section dealing with clandestine operations  
25X1 for the safety of the personnel involved and the national security.  
This information cannot be denied to the Communications Division as  
an [ ] information is useless unless he can transmit it to the  
proper authorities which in time of political stress requires the use  
of clandestine radio communications. Clandestine radio communications  
will not produce results unless [ ] have been  
previously provided to work to a given radio base, which base must be  
controlled by the same group of people that controls [ ]

It is, therefore, strongly recommended that the Communications  
Division remain an integral part of the Office of Special Operations.

25X1 [ ]

Chief, Communications Division, OSO

+ approved 9-10 by  
Noted A Dec and  
orig held to DD 9-10-48.

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